

humanitarian efforts have been recognized and celebrated by, among others, Congressman DANNY DAVIS, Congressman BILL FOSTER, Governor Pat Quinn, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and President Jimmy Carter.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Amma's selfless and compassionate devotion to all people, and her work to bring peace and understanding to our world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BLACK FAMILY DEVELOPMENT INC. DURING ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2018*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorees of the Black Family Development Corporation's 2018 Community Champions Arise Detroit and Impact Detroit awards amid its 40th anniversary. The BFDI has played a critical role in helping empower families in Michigan by giving them the help they need.

Since its founding in 1978, the BFDI has promoted and provided excellent social services in Detroit that are suited to the particular cultural needs of communities. The Detroit Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers, which was the precursor to BFDI, was based on the community derived needs and resulted in a programmatic focus by BFDI on child abuse and neglect. The BFDI works on behalf of children and families in their own communities in a culturally competent and respectful manner. These services have improved the lives of both parents and children in Detroit for forty years, and the success of their programs suggests it has a very long and bright future ahead of it.

The BFDI's work has been indispensable in helping forgotten communities of color. Its efforts have increased graduation rates, improved the skills of parents, and set guidelines to develop positive behaviors in at-risk children. I am proud to recognize the outstanding efforts of the BFDI and its members, and it is my hope that they will continue to be an influential and positive voice for countless families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Black Family Development Inc and its 40 years of success. Its work on behalf of neglected communities in Detroit has played a key role in caring for American families.

HONORING OFFICER ALEXIS HALL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community servant, Officer Alexis Hall. Officer Hall has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Officer Hall has been with the Vicksburg Police Department since September 2015. Officer Hall is following in the footsteps of law en-

forcement professionals in her family. Officer Hall's mother and uncle, Lt. Penny Jones and Captain Milton Moore, have served the Vicksburg Police Department since 1999.

Officer Hall has gone above and beyond her duties as a law enforcement officer on several occasions. Officer Hall's prompt reaction to provide medical attention proved to be life-saving measures for the individuals involved. Hall's quick thinking was a commendable effort. Officer Hall received the 2017 Vicksburg Police Department Top Cop.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Officer Alexis Hall for her dedication to serving her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 14TH AMENDMENT

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition and celebration of the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment.

On July 9, 1868, 150 years ago, two great defects in the original Constitution were corrected.

First, Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment repealed the "three-fifths" provision in the original Constitution and declared that "any and all persons born or naturalized in the United States would be guaranteed all the rights and privileges of citizenship."

Second, the Fourteenth Amendment provided and guaranteed to all persons in the United States due process and the equal protection of the law.

I ask that we reflect upon the progress this nation has made in fulfilling its founding promise that "we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal."

This promise of liberty and equality has been withheld from far too many for far too long.

While life and liberty is enshrined in our documents, this was not true for all.

Contrary to the spirit of the American Revolution, the Southern slave population at the time increased to 1.1 million in 1810 and then to nearly 4 million in 1860; by 1860 in my state of Texas, over 30 percent of the population was comprised of slaves.

Our democratic institutions—instruments of modern, civil government founded to ensure that barbaric tyrannies against humanity would be consigned to history—repeatedly upheld such blatant oppression in the form of legislation and judicial decisions that justified the horrific practices.

Even after the Thirteenth Amendment and the defeat of the Confederacy, "Black Codes," passed in numerous Southern States, continued to deny African Americans basic rights and privileges enjoyed by white citizens, such as the right to free travel, to own certain property, or to bring suit in court.

Therefore 150 years ago, the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified as an endeavor to reshape the fundamental fabric of race relations in America.

Let us remember, however, that the amendment is but a single mile marker in the ardu-

ous march of courageous Americans who sought to hold our nation accountable to its founding principles.

We must also remember that the Fourteenth Amendment, and the struggle and sacrifice that came thereafter, ultimately allowed this government to become a more diverse, dynamic body to better uphold the promise of America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this chamber on this occasion to reaffirm that I will not squander my hard-earned opportunity to fight for the rights of all Americans regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

And on the sesquicentennial of this very important moment for progress and equality, the current president plans to select a nominee to fill a seat on the highest court in the land.

I remind this body that the next jurist will replace a justice who recognized the importance of affirmative action as a necessary means to help heal the scars of segregation and Jim Crow; the next jurist will further likely be required to calibrate the balance of power between labor unions and their employing entities.

Given the importance of these and other issues, like voting rights, reproductive rights, the rights of the LGBTQ community, and countless others, those who believe the Court is the arbiter of fair justice, are looking for a jurist who will dispense fair justice for all Americans as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.

I call upon my colleagues in the Senate to put aside partisanship to ensure that the blood and sweat of patriots who gave their lives to safeguard our civil liberties shall not be in vain.

Mr. Speaker, the America that the Fourteenth Amendment saw is a nation with infinite potential for progress: that despite our history, we must continue to look toward finally achieving that shining city upon a hill.

I urge my colleagues in Congress, our faithful public servants in the myriad of federal institutions across the nation, as well as our friends in the Supreme Court to join me in celebrating that vision in this critical time of our republic by bravely choosing to step into the future by expanding civil liberties in our nation, not fumble in the past for a purportedly greater bygone era.

IN HONOR OF MR. RALPH PAIGE

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding leader and dear friend of longstanding, Mr. Ralph Paige. Sadly, Mr. Paige passed away on Thursday, June 28, 2018. A funeral service was held on Friday, July 6, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at New Community Church in LaGrange, Georgia.

A LaGrange, Georgia native, Ralph Paige received his Bachelor's degree in Education in 1967 from what is now Fort Valley State University and attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Ralph joined the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (the Federation) in 1969 as a Grassroots Organizer and